

2011-12 Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program Systemwide Assessment



**Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
November 1, 2012**

**Governor's Minority Student
College Preparation Program
2011-12 Annual Report**

The annual Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program report highlights academic enrichment programs originally developed for African American middle and junior high school students at the eight public universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. In 1998, this program was expanded to include students from all populations.

The program was created by the General Assembly in 1986 to address the under-representation of African American students in postsecondary education. The expanded GMSCPP encourages students in grades 6-8 to enroll in rigorous coursework to enable them to successfully transition to high school, to prepare for a successful academic career in postsecondary education. The program complements the work of schools by building relationships among middle and junior high schools and public postsecondary education institutions and encourages students to identify and address possible academic challenges prior to enrollment in postsecondary education.

The report looks at indicators of participants' success in the program. The 2011-12 evaluation revolves around the Council on Postsecondary Education's Strategic Agenda for Kentucky Postsecondary and Adult Education: Stronger by Degrees and its four focus areas, which were modified to reflect student participation in the program, in addition to the Statewide Diversity Policy. The four areas include:

1. College Readiness: Are GMSCPP participants prepared to enroll in rigorous coursework? Are they well-informed to enroll in credit-bearing courses?
2. Student Success: Are GMSCPP participants prepared to advance through the educational system with the skills/abilities to be college and career-ready?
3. Research, Economic, and Community Development: Are GMSCPP participants exposed to new knowledge/research that introduces high-demand degrees, increases educational attainment, and improve communities?
4. Efficiency and Innovation: Are cost effective means to serve GMSCPP students being considered?

Summary of 2011-12 Programs

The GMSCPP has experienced great success in its 26 years. The program promotes access and opportunity through academic enrichment programs and hands-on experiments, which introduce students to the institutional campus, administrators, faculty, staff, and a diverse makeup of college students. The 2011-12 university programs consisted of three residential summer programs (Morehead State University, Murray State University, and the University of Louisville); six of the programs operated year round. All institutions developed positive partnerships that provided numerous resources to the program participants. For example, churches, community and local organizations, and institutional fraternities and sororities used a “collective impact” approach to improve the success of the participants’ transition from middle to high school: shared vision, shared agendas and goals, and identification of educational stakeholders to sustain efforts long-term.

Although the Commonwealth has endured budget cuts over the past few years, the GMSCPP continues to thrive with the support of institutional administrators, program directors, assistants, and numerous volunteers that are committed to assisting the state with closing the achievement gap.

College Readiness

Participants of the 2011-12 GMSCPP include 1,130 middle and junior high school students: 963 students (85.2 percent) enrolled in the seven university programs (Eastern Kentucky University did not have a program in 2011-12; Northern Kentucky University was not funded by CPE, the program was funded by the institution). A total of 167 students (14.8 percent) enrolled in twelve KCTCS programs (Elizabethtown Community College, Jefferson Community College, Owensboro Community and Technical College, and Southeast Community and Technical College did not have a program in 2011-12). This is a decrease of 246 students from the previous year. The majority of the KCTCS programs were funded by their individual institutions. Only two KCTCS institutions received funding from the Council: Henderson Community College and Hopkinsville Community College.

Participants in 2010-11 included 1,376 middle and junior high school students: 1,063 students (77.3 percent) enrolled in the seven university programs (EKU did not have a program in 2010-11). KCTCS programs had 313 participants (22.7 percent) (JCTC did not have a program in 2010-11). This is a decrease of 42 students from the previous year. By comparison, a total of 1,418 students were served by the GMSCPP in 2009-10: 1,136 students (80.1 percent) enrolled in the seven university programs (EKU did not have a program in 2009-10), while 282 students (19.98 percent) enrolled in the KCTCS programs (JCTC did not have a program in 2009-10).

Academic enrichment activities are selected by program directors to prepare students to successfully enroll in rigorous courses at the high school level and to prepare them to enroll in college-bearing courses as they transition into postsecondary education. All programs in 2011-12 included a focus on STEM or some component of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The programs also incorporated reading, journaling, art, culture, foreign

language, study skills, tutoring, creative writing, business and economics, leadership building initiatives, sign language, and information on self-esteem, geology, and ACT preparation, in addition to many other areas.

Five universities and 10 KCTCS institutions incorporated pre- and post-testing to determine the skill level of the participants and to inform students and parents of areas that require additional attention. Examples of tests administered include TABE, WRAT3, Explore, and subject specific tests. The majority of the programs also served as academic and social support networks to the students during their participation in the GMSCPP. Several provided tutoring services to students to assist with homework during the academic year. The goal of the directors is to make every child proficient and prepared for success and to assist parents with helping students to meet their academic goals.

The institutions (with the exception of two) included a combination of a mandatory parent meeting and orientation, campus tour, field trip assistance, lunch, dinner, or award ceremony to promote parental involvement. Overall, the parents were very complimentary of the programs. This intervention strategy, now in its 26th year, has successfully transitioned thousands of students from middle school to high school to postsecondary education.

Student Success

The GMSCPP enables more students to advance through the education system, with the goal of graduating students with postsecondary education degrees in less time. The reports indicated that participants are introduced to financial aid and other resources available through KHEAA, in addition to institution specific funds. Financial aid officers also discussed the tuition fees and various resources available to help fund postsecondary education, including need-based financial aid and the KEES program. Program directors also presented information highlighting planning (saving) for postsecondary education. Exposure to this information reduces the anxiety students may have regarding financing postsecondary education and identifies resources early to assist families with funding their students' education. The GMSCPP also helps to close achievement gaps between majority students and low-income, minority, and underprepared students. Each institution includes administrators, faculty, staff, and student volunteers from diverse backgrounds to promote student engagement, improve the college experience, and promote a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment for all participants.

Three universities and three KCTCS institutions provide a residential component to their programs. Summer only programs include Morehead State University and seven KCTCS institutions (Bowling Green, Gateway, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Madisonville, and West Kentucky). A total of 11 institutions offer year-round programs. Students participated in summer residential components at MoSU, UofL, and MuSU. Three of the KCTCS institutions (Ashland, Hazard, and Maysville) collaborated with MoSU to offer a residential component to their students. Madisonville and Hopkinsville also partnered to offer collaborative activities to their students. More than 80 students participated in the University of Kentucky Engineering Day in January 2012 (UK and Somerset).

The Statewide Diversity Policy also highlights student success and encourages the public institutions to focus activities and strategies on significantly increasing the representation of students from diverse backgrounds. The goals and objectives are highlighted in each institution's diversity plan. With the implementation of the plans, each of the public institutions will continue to build pipelines that include middle, junior high, and high school students that may translate to increased student enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and more credentials and degrees awarded in the coming years.

Research, Economic, & Community Development

All GMSCPP participants are engaged in and exposed to STEM+H initiatives and other high demand fields. Program directors indicated that they also continue to advance social, artistic, cultural, and environmental activities, including liberal arts. Madisonville Community College focused a portion of their program on robotics in 2011. The University of Kentucky served 577 students in 2011—a total of 481 students were enrolled at Winburn Middle School (Ms. Mildred Bailey adopts the entire school each year), and were recognized for participating in the honors program. Additionally, UK offers Engineering Day, or E-Day, each spring to students of all ages. All GMSCPP students are encouraged to participate.

As a supplement to the campus based program activities, the Council organizes a statewide conference each year with one of the participating institutions to enable GMSCPP participants from across the Commonwealth to visit both rural and urban institutions to gain a greater appreciation for all of the public institutions. The STEM+H agenda is highlighted through leadership, advocacy, and collaboration during the day-and-a-half residential event. The conference is expected to increase the student's comfort level with the campus environment and ultimately lead to increased minority participation in postsecondary education. Since 2001, the statewide conference has been hosted on the campuses identified below:

- 2001 University of Kentucky
- 2002 Murray State University
- 2003 Eastern Kentucky University
- 2004 Northern Kentucky University
- 2005 Western Kentucky University
- 2006 University of Louisville
- 2007 Morehead State University
- 2008 University of Kentucky
- 2009 Murray State University
- 2010 Northern Kentucky University
- 2011 Western Kentucky University
- 2012 University of Louisville

In 2008, conference coordinators began offering hands-on activities and experiments to student participants focused on STEM+H. Past sessions include biology, physics, computer technology, mathematics, the environment, robotics, engineering, and health professions.

The 2012 conference was organized by Ms. Mary Thorpe at the University of Louisville, June 5-6, 2012. A total of 14 institutions participated: 5 universities and 9 KCTCS institutions. The day-and-a-half event included 215 students, chaperones, and program directors; additionally, a total of 35 volunteers (12 from UofL, including one faculty member) assisted with the conference. Graduate students, instructors, staff, administrators, and faculty that held positions external to the university, volunteered to conduct workshops for the GMSCPP participants. Workshops included:

- How to Make A Rocket
- Raising Awareness on the Importance of Higher Education
- How Does This Work
- Environmental Engineering
- The Science of Aviation
- Realizing Your Own Dream
- Graphic Design
- Public Health Extension Programs
- Your Health is a Public Matter
- Young Engineers
- Engineering and Our Sewer System

The workshops were well received, and both directors and students were complimentary of the quality of the sessions. Dr. Quentin Tyler, University of Kentucky's Assistant Dean for Diversity in the College of Agriculture, served as the dinner speaker Tuesday evening.

Council staff began discussions to select the 2013 location with institutional representatives in fall 2012. The host institution will be identified and confirmed at the January CEO meeting.

Efficiency and Innovation

Council staff works collaboratively with institutions across the state to develop cost efficient activities and programs with the goal of improving student success. As a result of the budget shortfall, Council staff met briefly with GMSCPP directors at the 2012 conference in Louisville, Kentucky, during the statewide conference. The majority of communication with program directors has occurred via electronic mail or through one-on-one telephone conversations. Future meetings will be scheduled with program directors as needed. E-mail and phone conversations have been found to be cost effective and productive.

In 2011-12, all KCTCS institutions and four universities (MoSU, MuSU, UK, and UofL) worked collaboratively with school personnel from the local districts that serve GMSCPP participants.

Several institutions participated in the 2012 UK Engineering Day—a total of 80 GMSCPP students attended. There is no fee to participate, other than transportation costs. All GMSCPP directors are encouraged to participate each year.

Reports indicated that a majority of the participants complete their year-round and summer institute programs. Extracurricular activities, scheduling conflicts, and transportation are often barriers to students completing the program. Because of the gap between participation in the GMSCPP (grades 6-8) and completing high school (grades 9-12), many institutions are unable to collect reliable and comparable information to allow CPE to follow the participants' progress from middle school to high school to postsecondary education. Council staff continues to work with GMSCPP directors to collect comparable data that will allow a review of longitudinal data to determine the success of the program.

For more than 25 years, the GMSCPP has been a fundamental source in promoting student access, family and community involvement, and increased awareness of the process for admission and enrollment in Kentucky's postsecondary education system. Overall, given the very limited financial support for each program, the GMSCPP has been invaluable in serving thousands of middle and junior high school students across the Commonwealth. With increased support, Kentucky may be able to close the achievement gap and enroll a greater number of students in credit-bearing courses—simply because of our statewide GMSCPP.

Staff preparation by Rana Johnson